CSU Environmental Health Services Portable Heater Use Guidelines

• Portable electric heaters shall be listed and approved by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL). Open or unguarded coils or elements are prohibited.

• Portable electric heaters should be of the fail-safe type, which are equipped with an automatic tip-over safety shut-off switch.

• Portable electric heaters should be placed at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from combustibles: paper, curtains, furniture, clothing, bedding or anything else that can burn. Observe clearances recommended by the manufacturer.

• Never leave an electric heater operating when you leave the room or area, or while sleeping. Be safe and conserve energy by unplugging space heaters when not in use.

• Never dry clothes or other combustibles on or directly over heaters.

• Always plug the electric heater directly into a wall outlet or use a UL approved surge strip with circuit breaker; don’t use extension cords.

• Do not extend the electric cord of the heater through wall openings, under doors or floor coverings. Arrange the cord away from traffic areas where it will not be tripped over or otherwise subject to damage.

• Do not operate an electric heater with a damaged cord or plug or after the heater malfunctions or has been dropped or damaged in any manner.

• Do not operate an electric heater in or near water, or in extremely damp conditions.

• Liquid and/ or solid fuel (gasoline, kerosene, pellet, propane etc.) space heaters are not permitted for use inside buildings or in areas with inadequate ventilation.

Eric March
University Safety & Industrial Hygiene Coordinator
Bldg. Health & Safety Coordinator
CSU Environmental Health Services
eric.march@colostate.edu